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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 DHA-02
ORM-02 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
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DIA WASHDC
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CY
SUBJECT: LAND OWNERSHIP OF TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY

REF: (A) NICOSIA 0414 (DTG 132105Z FEB 77)
(B) LATHAM-DEVOS TELCON FEB. 17

1. ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWING FEB 12 MAKARIOS-DENKTASH MEETING
THAT LAND OWNERSHIP WOULD BE ONE OF CRITERIA USED TO DISCUSS
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TERRITORY IN FUTURE CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS (REF A) HAS
RESUSCITATED IN LACLA PRESS GREEK CYPRIOT CLAIM THAT
TURK CYPRIOTS OWN 12.3 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AREA OF
CYPRUS. USE OF THIS FIGURE APPEARS TO DATE FROM
PUBLICATION OF THE PAPER "WHOSE IS WHAT?: THE
TRUE FACTS OF LAND OWNERSHIP IN CYPRUS" IN SEPTEMBER
1974 BY THE GOC LANDS AND SURVEYS DEPARTMENT.

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2. ASKED ABOUT THESE GREEK CYPRIOT CLAIMS BY TURKISH JOURNALISTS FEB 16, DENKTASH ASSERTED THAT TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPERTY RIGHTS TO 32.8 PERCENT OF THE LAND WERE OUT IN THE OPEN AND THAT "WE ARE IN A POSITION TO DEFEND THEM." HE ALSO LAID CLIAM TO HALF OF THE STATE-OWNED LAND, WHICH BOTH SIDES AGREE TOTALS ROUGHLY 27 PERCENT OF THE ISLAND. IN BLUNT MANNER NOT LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVED POLITICAL ATMOSPHERICS HERE FOLLOWING RECENT MAKARIOS-DENKTASH MEETING, DENK-TASH SAID THAT GREEK PROPAGANDA ATTEMPTS (TO SHOW THAT TURKS OWN ONLY 12.3 PERCENT) DEMONSTRATE THAT MANY DIFFICULTIES LIE AHEAD IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT "GREEK CYPRIOTS ARE TRYING TO CONSOLE THEMSELVES AND DECEIVE THE WORLD WITH LIES." CHIDING GREEKS FOR INFLATING NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN ORDER TO GAIN ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE, DENKTASH SAID THAT "FAKE STATISTICS WILL SOLVE NOTHING" AND THAT PROBLEM IN ANY CASE WOULD BE SOLVED BY "FACTS BEYOND STATISTICS."

3. COPIES OF LANDS AND SURVEYS PAPER (PARA 1) ARE BEING SENT TO ATHENS, ANKARA AND EUR/SE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, LAND TENURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NICOSI00476
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770057-0612
Format: TEL
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770232/aaaabccc.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 28a017c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 NICOSIA 414
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3296385
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAND OWNERSHIP OF TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY
TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/28a017c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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22 May 2009
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